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UM libraries launch new web-based catalog

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The University of
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NEWS RELEASE

March 5, 2002

Contact: Frank D'Andraia, UM library dean, (406) 243-6800.

UM LIBRARIES LAUNCH NEW WEB-BASED CATALOG

MISSOULA—

University of Montana libraries in **Missoula, Butte, Helena and Dillon** recently launched a new Web-based catalog system that allows users to check the availability of UM's more than 1.5 million books, journals and media materials with the click of a mouse.

"We now have a brick library – the library of as place – and a 'click library' – which allows you to access our collection with your computer over the Internet," said Frank D'Andraia, dean of library services in Missoula.

The new system, the Montana Public Access Catalog (MPAC) of the Affiliated Libraries of The University of Montana, cost about \$620,000 and was installed by Endeavor Information Systems of Des Plaines, Ill. The catalog may be accessed by any computer at <http://libcat.lib.umt.edu>.

MPAC replaces the dated telnet system, called "Griznet" in Missoula, which was a first-generation electronic catalog system. Telnet users were confronted by a cumbersome interface operated by somewhat obscure commands. (For example, type "SO" whenever you want to start over with a search.)

D'Andraia said the new system is much more intuitive for today's Web-savvy computer users. "If you know how to use the Internet, you'll have no problem with the new system.

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This is a quantum leap over Telnet – like night and day. Students are saying the new system is great, and they will be able to use their time more efficiently because the new system is faster and easier to use."

The new MPAC system allows users to:

- access a full-color, easy-to-use, point-and-click interface.
- e-mail their research results or save them to a disk.
- customize basic and advanced online searches. For example, users can search all UM holdings or limit a search to just materials in Dillon. They also can do pinpoint searches for items such as videos, magazines, musical scores or foreign-language books.
- access links to many electronic, full-text materials.
- see how many books or other materials they have checked out.
- place items on hold that they want to check out in the future.
- do research after library hours. Students can now locate materials for research papers at midnight without leaving their residence halls or apartments.

D'Andraia said the new catalog system is customizable and compatible with Banner, UM's electronic management system. Endeavor also will supply regular updates and improvements for the system.

Through Friday, March 8, the Mansfield Library in Missoula will celebrate the new system by offering prizes, including gift certificates from the campus bookstore. Information Center staff also are available to assist, and the center will offer training sessions at 10 a.m. Tuesday, March 12, and at 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 13.

MPAC now is used at four locations in Missoula: the Mansfield Library, UM's

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Jameson Law Library, the UM College of Technology Library and the St. Patrick Hospital Center for Health Information. It's also online at the following affiliate campuses: the Helena College of Technology of UM, Montana Tech of UM in Butte, the Montana Tech College of Technology in Butte, and UM Western in Dillon.

For additional information, call the Mansfield Library Information Center at (406) 243-6866.

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